

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
21 April 2005 (21.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/036483 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G07F 7/00,**
G06F 17/60

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2004/052071

(22) International Filing Date: 12 October 2004 (12.10.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/511,137 14 October 2003 (14.10.2003) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V.** [NL/NL];
Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **MARMAROPOULOS, George** [GR/US]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US). **PARAMESWARAN,**

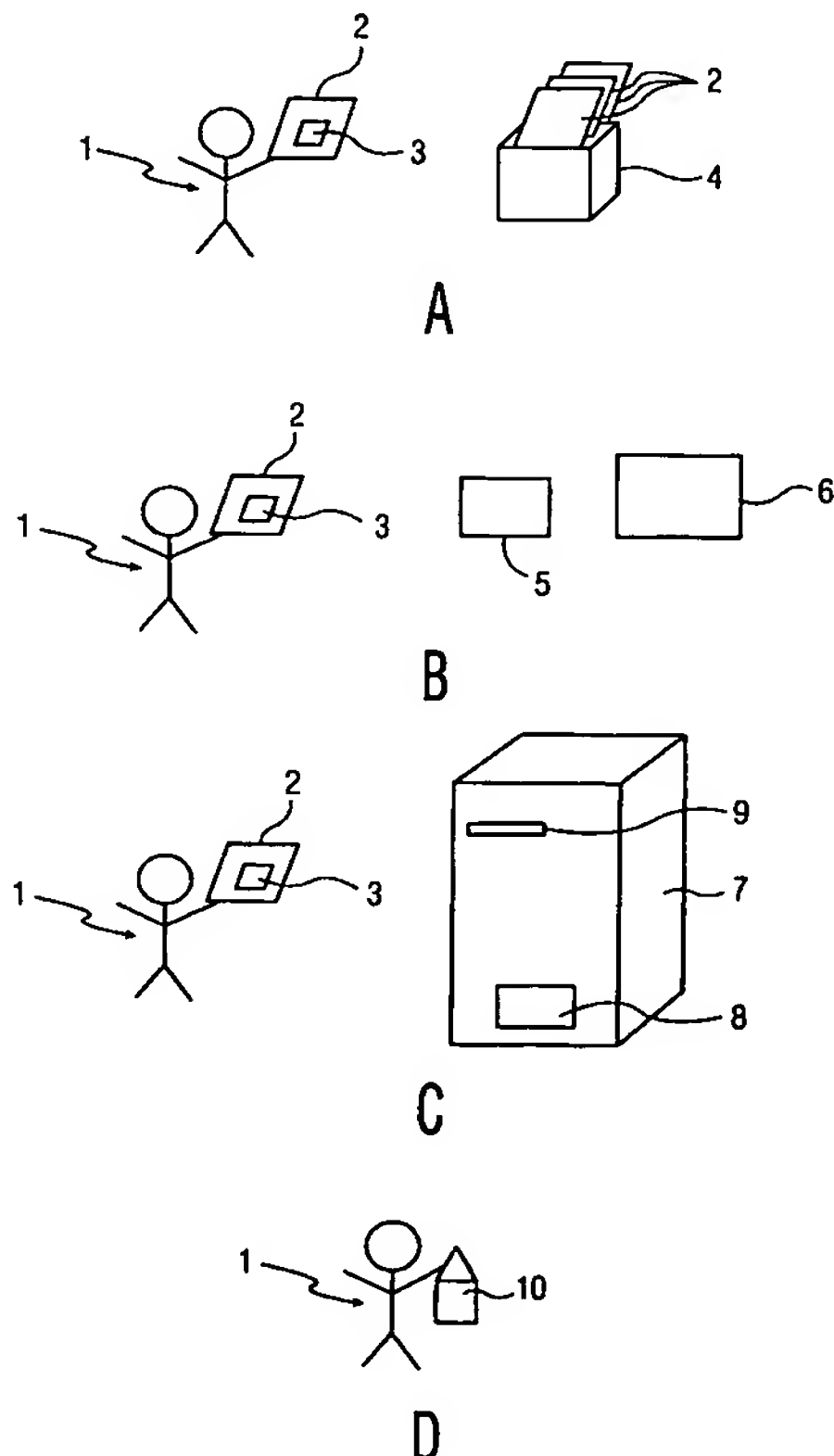
Lekshmy [GB/GB]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US). **VU, Giang** [GB/US]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US). **VAN HEERDEN, Olive** [GB/GB]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US). **MAMA, Jack (Kyriakos)** [GB/GB]; P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US).

(74) Common Representative: **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V.**; c/o Waxler, Aaron, P.O. Box 3001, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PACKAGING AND DISPENSING SAMPLES IN A SALES ENVIRONMENT



(57) Abstract: The invention includes a system for, a method for, and a method of doing business including dispensing samples. These include a sample card distributor (4); a machine-readable label (3) incorporated in a sample card (2), a machine-readable label writer (6) for writing data associated with a product (5) onto the machine-readable label (3), and a device for distributing samples (7) which includes a machine-readable label reader (9) for reading the machine-readable label (3); a database (12) containing sample information; means for packaging and distributing samples (14); and a processor (11) for receiving data from the machine-readable label reader (9), obtaining sample information from the database (12), and directing the means for packaging and distributing samples (14) to package and distribute at least one sample.



(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ,

TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations

Published:

- with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.